

REMARKS

Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.121, a "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE" is enclosed, following these remarks.

Claims 1-24 are pending and stand rejected. Claims 1 and 13 are amended herein.

The abstract of the disclosure has been amended to eliminate the objectionable terms "and/or".

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the examiner states that the phrase "and/or" render claims 1 and 13 indefinite. To eliminate this rejection, claims 1 and 13 have been amended to recite:

...wire and cable enclosure system...wherein the pleated body allows the connector to be manually bent from side-to-side, manually bent from front-to-back, manually lengthened, or manually shortened to provide a desired configuration.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, is respectfully urged.

Claims 1 and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,283,393 to Guginsky. In response thereto, claims 1 and 13 have been amended to recite that the pleated body includes a plurality of pleats which fold into and out of one another. Guginsky does not expressly or inherently describe such a structure. Guginsky describes in column 2, line 60 through column 3 line, 16 a body including a plurality of resilient metal segments 14 which are relatively longitudinally slidable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 USC 102(b) rejection is respectfully urged.

Claims 2, 3, 14, and 15 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guginsky in view of U.S. Patent 5,235,136 to Santucci et al. (Santucci).

Guginsky teaches a body made from a plurality of slidable, metal segments and Santucci teaches a non-bendable, non-pleated cable and wire duct made from plastic. Thus, Guginsky in view of Santucci fail to teach or suggest a pleated body including a plurality of pleats which fold into and out of one another as presently claimed. Moreover, there is no motivation or suggestion in either Guginsky or Santucci for making the metal segmented body of Guginsky from the plastic described in Santucci. Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 USC 103(a) rejection using Guginsky in view of Santucci is respectfully urged.

Claims 3-12 and 16-24 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Guginsky in view of Santucci and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,789,064 to Valente et al. (Valente).

Valente fails to cure the deficiencies of Guginsky in view of Santucci, as Valente merely teaches a plastic composition with electromagnetic radiation absorbing properties. Thus, Guginsky in view of Santucci and further in view of Valente fail to teach or suggest a pleated body including a plurality of pleats which fold into and out of one another as presently claimed. Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 USC 103(a) rejection using Guginsky in view of Santucci and further in view of Valente is respectfully urged.

The prior art references made of record and not relied upon fail to disclose or teach the presently claimed invention.

No fee is believed to be due on account of the enclosed communication. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any other fees which may be required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2061.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The following marked-up abstract of the disclosure and claims correspond to the replacement abstract of the disclosure and claims of this amendment.

New abstract of the disclosure:

A connector for connecting elongated enclosures of a wire and[/or] cable enclosure system, includes: a manually bendable pleated body having first and second ends; a first coupling member extending from the first end of the body, for attaching one of the elongated enclosures to the connector; and a second coupling member extending from the second end of the body, for attaching another one of the elongated enclosures to the connector. The pleated body allows the connector to be manually bent from side-to-side, [and/or] manually bent from front-to-back, [and/or be] manually lengthened, or [be] manually shortened to provide a desired configuration.

1.(AMENDED) A connector for connecting elongated enclosures of a wire and[/or] cable enclosure system, the connector comprising:

a manually bendable pleated body having first and second ends, the pleated body including a plurality of pleats which fold into and out of one another;

a first coupling member extending from the first end of the body, the first coupling member for attaching one of the elongated enclosures to the connector; and

a second coupling member extending from the second end of the body, the second coupling member for attaching another one of the elongated enclosures to the connector;

wherein the pleated body allows the connector to be manually bent from side-to-side, [and/or] manually bent from front-to-back, [and/or be] manually lengthened, or manually shortened to provide a desired configuration.

13.(AMENDED) A[n] wire and cable enclosure system [for wires and /or cables, the system] comprising:

elongated enclosures; and

a connector comprising:

a manually bendable pleated body having first and second ends, the pleated body including a plurality of pleats which fold into and out of one another;

a first coupling member extending from the first end of the body, the first coupling member for attaching one of the elongated enclosures to the connector; and

a second coupling member extending from the second end of the body, the second coupling member for attaching another one of the elongated enclosures to the connector;

wherein the pleated body allows the connector to be manually bent from side-to-side, [and/or] manually bent from front-to-back, [and/or be] manually lengthened or, manually shortened to provide a desired configuration.